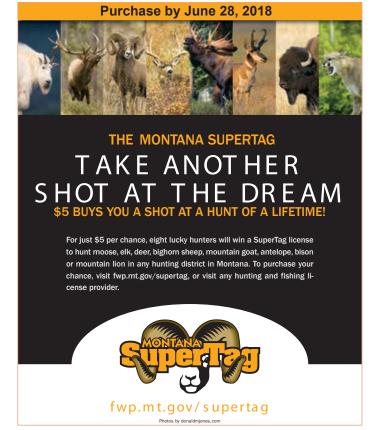
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## **Montana is Bear Country**

## Be Bear Aware!

Black bear hunters must be able to tell the difference between a grizzly and a black bear because grizzly bears cannot be legally hunted in Montana.

Three simple rules will help you make the right decision:

- 1. Learn how to identify bears.
- 2. Be absolutely sure of your target.
- 3. If in doubt, don't shoot.

## Look for a combination of characteristics.

Their color and body size can be misleading!

Tall pointed

ears

No shoulder hump

Straight face profile



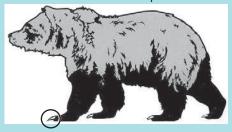
**BLACK BEAR** 

Short. rounded, ears

Shoulder hump

Dished face profile

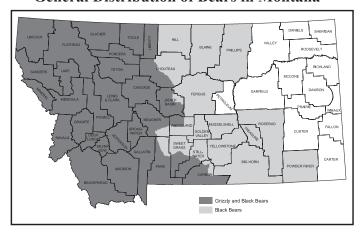
> Long claws



## **GRIZZLY BEAR**

Mandatory bear identification testing is required to purchase a black bear license. Check FWP's website: http://fwp.mt.gov

## General Distribution of Bears in Montana



## **Carry Bear Spray and Know How To Use It!**

- · Hunting puts you at risk of encountering a bear. Calling game and using scents may attract bears.
- If you hunt alone, let someone know about your plans. If you feel uneasy hunting alone, hunt with a partner.
- Pay attention to fresh bear sign. Communicate with others and let them know when bears have been seen and/or fresh sign observed.
- · Some bears may move in the direction of a gunshot because they learned to associate the sound with a gut pile or carcass.
- The golden rule is "get the game animal out of the area as quickly as possible". The longer a carcass remains lying on the ground, hung up in camp, or stored in the back of a truck, the more likely it will be discovered by a bear.
- · Carcasses left for a period of time require special care. Carry a colored, lightweight tarp or space blanket. Put the guts on the tarp and drag them a few hundred feet away from the carcass.
- · Locate an observation point 200 yards (if possible) away from the carcass with a clear line of sight.

When returning, approach the observation point carefully. Yell or whistle repeatedly. With binoculars study the scene from the observation point and scan the area for the carcass and any movement. If a bear is at the site and refuses to leave or the meat has been covered up with debris by a bear, report the incident to FWP.

Do not attempt to frighten away or haze a bear, especially a grizzly.

- · Bears are opportunists and change their behavior to take advantage of new food sources. Always assume that grizzlies are in the area and make sure your camps, cabins, and homes are bear proof, and that bear attractants are unavailable or contained.
- · Mentally rehearse a worst-case scenario with encountering a bear. "If the mind has never been there before, the body does not know how to respond". The following is a list of recommended responses to minimize the likelihood of attack or chances of human injury:

Make certain you have bear spray at the ready and know how to use it. In sudden grizzly encounters, bear spray has proven effective. Bears sprayed in the face at close range often stop attacking.

Always maintain a safe distance from bears.

Stav calm.

Immediately pick up small children and stay in a group.

Behave in a non-threatening manner.

Speak softly.

Throw an object (like a hat or gloves) on the ground as you move away to distract the animal's attention.

Slowly back away, if possible. Keep a distance of at least 100 yards.

Do not run from a bear. Running may trigger a natural predator-prey attack response, and a bear can easily outrun the world's fastest human.

Don't climb a tree unless you are sure you can get at least 10' from the ground before the bear reaches you. Many experts recommend against climbing trees in most situations.

• Report encounters with Grizzly Bears to FWP at 1-800-TIP-MONT, U.S. Forest Service, or one of the nearest FWP bear management specialists listed below:

Kevin Frey, Bozeman, MT 406-994-3553 Mike Madel, Choteau, MT 406-466-5100

Wesley Sarmento, Conrad, 406-450-1097

Tim Manley, Kalispell, MT 406-250-1265

Kim Annis, Libby, MT 406-293-4161 x207

James Jonkel, Missoula, MT 406-542-5508

In an actual emergency, phone 9-1-1. Seeing a grizzly is not necessarily a reportable encounter or an emergency. Report encounters where the bear displayed aggressive or defensive behavior toward people. livestock or pets.

For more information visit: http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/livingWithWildlife/beBearAware/



## http://fwp.mt.gov/cwd

## WHAT IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE?

CWD is a progressive, fatal neurological disease that effects deer, elk and moose. It has been present for some years in states and Canadian provinces north, east and south of Montana, but was first found in wild deer in the state in 2017 during focused CWD surveillance throughout south central Montana. CWD has not been shown to spread to people, pets, livestock or wildlife outside of the deer family. However, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend not consuming meat from an animal known to be infected with CWD. The CDC also recommends that hunters have deer tested if they were harvested in areas where CWD is known to be present.

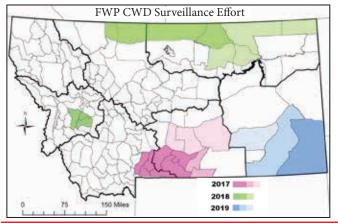
Animals may carry the disease for years, and appear perfectly healthy. In their final months, however, they appear emaciated with drooling and drooping heads and ears, among other symptoms (see <a href="http://fwp.mt.gov/cwd">http://fwp.mt.gov/cwd</a>).

## WHERE IS CWD?

During the 2017 general game animal season CWD was discovered in deer in Carbon County just north of Wyoming (as a result of intensive sampling at check stations in south central Montana) and in northern Liberty County near the Canadian border.

During the 2018 hunting seasons, FWP will take tissue samples from any deer, elk or moose harvested in some northern Montana counties and near Phillipshurg.

The 2019 intensive sampling effort will focus on southeastern Montana. Hunters who stop at check stations in those areas can expect to be asked if FWP can test their harvested animals. Hunters will be informed of the results of their tests.



## WHY IS CWD MANAGEMENT IMPORTANT?

- Helps manage long term population decline in infected herds. (Some states have seen more than 40% decline in mule deer.)
- · Decreases prevalence and likelihood of spread.
- · Helps slow the decline of wildlife related recreation opportunities.
- · Controls potential declines in property value.
- · CWD has broader impacts to Montana's hunting and outdoor legacy.

## DON'T ACCIDENTALLY SPREAD CWD

## To Montana from other states

It is unlawful to transport into Montana from states or Canadian provinces that have experienced CWD a whole carcass, whole head, brain or spinal column from white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk. Those states and provinces include Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

- Keep in mind that "evidence of sex requirements" must always be met when transporting any of these parts into Montana (see page 17).
- It is illegal to use or sell deer or elk urine to mask human odor if the urine originated in any of the CWD-positive states or provinces listed above, unless the urine originated in a facility that is CWD-free as determined by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Facilities certified by the Archery Trade Association meet these criteria.

## To other states from Montana

Other states and Canadian provinces prohibit the import of certain deer, elk or moose parts from Montana. They are Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Alberta, British Columbian Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories, Ontario, Quebec and Yukon. Questions concerning carcass transport may be directed to your home state's wildlife division or to FWP's enforcement division at (406) 444-2452.

## TRANSPORT RESTRICTION ZONES (TRZs) IN MONTANA

To prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from areas in Montana known to be infected to other parts of Montana, certain parts of animals harvested in those areas are not allowed outside of established **Transportation Restriction Zones** (TRZs).

## **Current Transportation Restriction Zones (TRZs) in Montana include:**

Transport Restriction Zone (TRZ) for animals taken in Liberty County north of Highway 2 — The whole carcass, whole head, brain or spinal column from any deer, elk or moose taken in Liberty County north of U.S. Highway 2 may not be removed from Toole, Liberty or Hill Counties unless the animal has tested negative for CWD.

Transport Restriction Zone (TRZ) for animals taken in Carbon County east of Highway 212 and the Roberts-Cooney Road — The whole carcass, whole head, brain or spinal column from any deer, elk or moose taken in Carbon County east of U.S. Highway 212 and the Roberts-Cooney Road may not be removed from Carbon or Yellowstone Counties unless the animal has tested negative for CWD.

## Animal parts that can be removed from the TRZ include:

Meat that is cut and wrapped or meat that has been separated from the bone.

- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- · Hides with no heads attached.
- · Skull plates or antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
- Skulls that have been boiled and cleaned to remove all flesh and tissue.

## **Contacts**

## Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters

1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 406-444-2535

Harvest Reporting	1-877-FWP-WILD
(1-877-397-945	3) or 406-444-0356
Quota Status 1-800-385-78	826 or 406-444-1989
Hunter Education	406-444-9948
Wildlife	406-444-2612
Enforcement	406-444-2452
Montana State Parks	406-444-3750
Drawings	406-444-2950
Licenses	406-444-2535
Hearing Impaired (use Mo	ontana
Relay)/-1-1	or 1-800-253-4091

## Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters

## **REGION 1**

490 N Meridian Rd Kalispell, MT 59901 406-752-5501

## **Libby Field Office**

385 Fish Hatchery Rd Libby, MT 59923 (406)293-4161

## **REGION 2**

3201 Spurgin Rd Missoula, MT 59804 406-542-5500

#### **REGION 3**

1400 South 19th. Ave Bozeman, MT 59718-5496 406-994-4042

## HELENA Area Resource Office (HARO) Contacts Outside Fish, Wildlife & Parks

930 Custer Ave W Helena, MT 59620 406-495-3260

## **BUTTE Area Resource Office (BARO)**

1820 Meadowlark Ln Butte, MT59701 406-494-1953

## **REGION 4**

4600 Giant Springs Rd Great Falls, MT 59405 406-454-5840

## **LEWISTOWN Area Resource** Office (LARO)

333 Airport Road PO Box 938 Lewistown, MT 59457 406-538-4658

#### **REGION 5**

2300 Lake Elmo Dr Billings, MT 59105 406-247-2940

#### **REGION 6**

1 Airport Rd Glasgow, MT59230 406-228-3700

## **HAVRE Area Resource Office (HvARO)**

2165 Hwy 2 East Havre, MT 59501 406-265-6177

#### **REGION 7**

352 I-94 Business Loop PO Box 1630 Miles City, MT 59301 406-234-0900

## Montana State Agencies

Agriculture	406-444-3144
Guides & Outfitters	406-841-2300
Livestock	406-444-7323
State Lands (DNRC)	406-444-2074
Tourism	406-841-2870

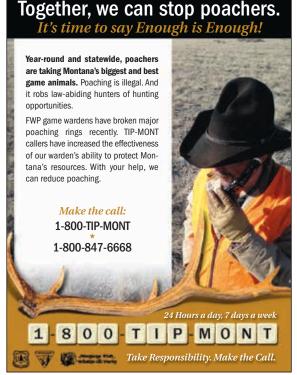
#### **Federal Agencies**

US Department of	
Interior (USDI)	202-208-3100
USDI Fish & Wildlife	
Service	406-449-5225
USDA Forest Service	.406-329-3511
USDI Bureau of Land	
Management	406-896-5000
National Weather Service	
(Missoula)	406-329-4840
,	

#### **Tribal Lands**

Blackfeet Reservation 406-338-7276
Crow Reservation 406-638-2179
Flathead Reservation 406-883-2888
ext 7200
Fort Belknap 406-353-2205
Fort Peck Reservation 406-768-5305
Northern Cheyenne
Reservation
Rocky Boy Reservation 406-395-4207





## F&W Commission Adopted

These regulations are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish & Wildlife Commission (F&W Commission) in MCA 87-1-301 and are valid March 1, 2018, through February 28, 2019. These regulations were adopted by the F&W Commission on February 15, 2018. The F&W Commission reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. Martha Williams, Director.

**Discrimination Prohibited** – State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Human Resources, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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## What's New for 2018

- New Bighorn Sheep Hunting District 330 in the Greenhorn Mountains.
- Reopening the Hyalite Bighorn Sheep Hunting District 304.
- Hunters harvesting a bighorn ram in hunting district 482 must have their ram checked within Region 4.
- New mountain goat district in the north Big Belt Mountains – HD 350.
- In Regions 1, 2, and 4 it is unlawful to take a female mountain goat accompanying a kid or a female in a group that contains one or more kids – see page 41.

## 2018 Season Dates

These dates represent the "general" season dates. Check the individual hunting district regulations for the most accurate season dates and regulations.

dates and regulations	
Game Animals	
Antelope	
900 series	. Aug 15–Nov 11
archery	Sept 1–Oct 5
general	. Oct 6–Nov 11
Bighorn Sheep	
archery	Sept 1-Sept 14
general	.Sept 15-Nov 25
Bison	. Nov 15–Feb 15, 2019
Black bear	·
spring	. Apr 15–Various
	(May 31-June 15)
archery	Sept 1-Sept 14
fall	.Sept 15–Nov 25
Caribou	No Season
Deer & Elk	
archery	Sept 1-Oct 14
youth, two-day hur	nt;
deer only	Oct 18-Oct 19
general	. Oct 20-Nov 25
backcountry – HDs	: 150, 151, 280, 316*
archery	Sept 1-Sept 14
general	.Sept 15-Nov 25
Elk Shoulder Season	s Check website
Moose	
Mountain Goat	.Sept 15-Nov 25
Mountain Lion	
archery	Sept 1-Oct 14
fall	Oct 20-Nov 25
winter	. Dec 1-Apr 14, 2019
late winter	.Feb 1-Apr 14, 2019
Wolf Season	
archery	Sept 1-Sept 14
general	. Sept 15-Mar 15, 2019
trapping	Dec 15–Feb 28, 2019
<b>Upland Game Bird</b>	
Mountain Grouse	
Partridge	Sept 1–Jan 1, 2019
Pheasant	
Ptarmigan	
Sage Grouse	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	
Turkey	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
spring	.Apr 14-May 20
fall	Sept 1–Jan 1, 2019
* HD 316 does not have an Archery Only Season	

## Reminders for 2018

- A Base Hunting License is a required prerequisite for hunting. The cost is \$10 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents.
- Special Considerations for Youth and Hunters with a Disability pages 47-48.

## 2018 Application/Purchase Deadlines

Game Animals	
AntelopeJune 1	
Bighorn Sheep (postmarked by). May 1	
Bison (postmarked by) May 1	
Black Bear	
spring Apr 14*	
fall Aug 31*	
Deer & Elk	
permits (postmarked by) Mar 15	
B licenses (postmarked by) June 1	
Moose (postmarked by) May 1	
Mountain Goat (postmarked by) May 1	
Mountain Lion	
general licenseAug 31*	
special limited entry Aug 9*	
Super Tags	
Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Bison,	
Deer, Elk, Moose, Mountain Goat and Mountain Lion June 28	
Upland Game, Migratory and	
Webless Migratory Birds	
CraneJuly 26	
SwanAug 30	
Turkey Mor 1	
spring Mar 1 fall July 26	
July 20	
*see species-specific regulations for	

\*see species-specific regulations for license purchase restrictions.

## Youth Considerations

## Youth and Apprentice Hunters:

- A Youth Hunter is a resident or nonresident 12-17 years of age, or who will reach 12 years of age by January 16, 2019, who has successfully completed hunter education. A Youth Hunter may hunt any game species except spring turkey and spring black bear for which their license is valid, after August 15 of the 2018 license year (see page 47). Proof of hunter education must be presented at the time of license purchase.
- An Apprentice Hunter is a resident or nonresident 10 years of age or older who may or may not have completed hunter education but is certified at an FWP office. This allows the apprentice to hunt some species, while accompanied by a mentor, without first completing a hunter education course. The Apprentice may not purchase a mountain lion, black bear or wolf license or apply for a bighorn sheep license or a hunting license or permit with a limited quota. The Apprentice Hunter may not purchase an elk license if he/she is under 15 years of age. Other restrictions apply. See our website for details at http://fwp.mt.gov/ hunting/licenses/all/apprenticeHunter/ default.html.

## Laws and Regulations

These regulations contain information to safely and lawfully participate in Montana's Antelope, Deer, and Elk hunting opportunities.



Hunters who hunt lawfully and responsibly keep Montana's hunting traditions alive.



Don't risk losing the privilege of hunting in Montana. Be Safe Be Legal Be Responsible!

## **License and Permit Possession and Use**

## It is unlawful to:

- hunt or attempt to hunt for any game animal unless the person is carrying the required license or permit at the time.
- refuse to produce a license or permit and the identification used in purchasing a license or permit for inspection to a game warden.
- alter or change a license in any material manner.
- loan or transfer any license to another person.
- use a license issued to another person.
- attach the person's license to a game animal killed by another person.
- have physical control over a valid and unused hunting license or permit issued to another person while in any location that the species to be hunted may inhabit; This prohibition does not apply to a person who is carrying or has physical control over a license or permit issued to that person's spouse or to any minor when the spouse or minor is hunting with that person.

## Lawful Methods for Hunting Game Animals

- Firearms, including rifles, handguns, shotguns with 0, 00, or slugs, and muzzleloaders; archery equipment; and crossbows are lawful for taking game animals. All other methods of take are prohibited.
- There is no rifle or handgun caliber limitation or magazine/round capacity restrictions for the taking of game animals.

 Rifle scopes with illuminated reticles, built-in range finding capabilities, and "red dot" scopes are lawful for the taking of game animals.

## **Archery Equipment**

- It is unlawful to use any chemical or explosive device attached to an arrow to aid in the taking of game animals.
- The following criteria define Archery Equipment. It is unlawful to possess, while hunting game during any Archery Only Season and in Archery Equipment Only areas, archery equipment that does not meet the following criteria:

**Hunting Bow:** A hunting bow for game animals shall be a longbow, flatbow, recurve bow, compound bow, or any combination of these designs.

- The bow must be a device for launching an arrow, which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs (includes bows with split limbs).
- The bow must be hand drawn by a single and direct uninterrupted pulling action of the shooter. The bowstring must be moved from brace height to the full draw position by the muscle power of the shooter's body. The energy used to propel the arrow shall not be derived from any other source such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, or similar devices. These limitations shall not exclude the mechanical leverage advantage provided by eccentric wheels or cams, so long as the available energy stored in the bent limbs of the bow is the sole result of a single, continuous, and direct pulling effort by the shooter.
- The bow must be hand-held. One hand shall hold the bow and the other hand draw the bowstring. The bowstring must be moved and/or held at all points in the draw cycle entirely by muscle power of the shooter until release. The bowstring must be released as a direct and conscious action of the shooter, either relaxing the tension of the fingers or triggering the release action of a hand-held release aid.

**Exception:** Physically disabled bowhunters certified by FWP with the Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE) are exempted from the requirement of holding or shooting the bow with their hands.

- > A bow is considered legal if it is at least 28 inches in total length.
- The nominal percent of let-off for hunting bows shall be a maximum of 80 percent as advertised by the manufacturer.

**Arrow:** An arrow is a projectile at least 20 inches in overall length. The length of the arrow is measured from the rearward point of the nock to the tip of the broadhead.

- A broadhead is mounted on the fore end.
- The arrow shall weigh no less than 300 grains with the broadhead attached.
- Arrows must have broadheads with at least two cutting edges and be at least 7/8 inches at the widest point. Expandable broadheads are legal as long as when expanded they are at least 7/8 inches at the widest point, and weigh no less than 70 grains.
- Arrows equipped with lighted nocks are allowed.
- The following are not considered a hunting bow or legal archery equipment during the Archery Only Season or in an Archery Equipment Only area or hunting district:
- Crossbow.
- Any device with a gun-type stock or incorporating any device or mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter's muscle power.
- Any bow for which a portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any track, trough, channel, or other device that attaches directly to the bow's riser contacts, supports, and/or guides the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height. This is not intended to restrict the use of standard overdraw systems.
- Electronic or battery-powered devices attached to a hunting bow or arrow except for lighted nocks.
- A bow sight or arrow which uses artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics. **Exception:** an arrow may have a lighted nock.

## Unlawful Methods of Hunting Game Animals

In order to carry or use a firearm for any reason, a youth under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a person having charge or custody of the youth, or be under the supervision of a qualified firearms safety instructor or an adult 18 years of age or older who has been authorized by the youth's parent or guardian, MCA 45-8-344.

## **Aerial Spotting**

- It is unlawful for a person to shoot a game animal from an aircraft.
- It is unlawful for a person to use an aircraft for the purpose of concentrating, pursuing, driving, rallying, or stirring up any game animal.
- Aircraft may not be used to locate game animals for the purpose of:
- Hunting those animals during the same

hunting day after a person has been airborne or;

 Providing information for another person for the purpose of hunting those animals within the same hunting day after being airborne.

## **Artificial Light**

It is unlawful for anyone to take or attempt to take any game animal or game bird with the aid of projected artificial light. Use of rifle scopes that project an artificial light to illuminate the target or project infra-red light visible only with specialized optics to illuminate the target are unlawful for the taking of game animals.

## **Baiting**

- It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt by the aid of or with the use of any bait, salt lick, trap, snare or set gun.
- Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of food sources or salt so as to constitute a lure or attraction.

## Dogs

It is unlawful for a person to use dogs to chase game animals. Dogs may be utilized to recover or locate wounded game animals but handlers shall maintain physical control of the dog at all times by means of a maximum 50-foot lead attached to the dog's collar or harness.

## **Motion-Tracking Devices**

It is unlawful for a person, while hunting, to possess any electronic motion-tracking device or mechanism that is designed to track the motion of a game animal and relay information on the animal's movement to the hunter. A radio-tracking collar attached to a dog that is used by a hunter engaged in lawful hunting activities is not considered an unlawful motion-tracking device.

## **Motorized Vehicles**

It is unlawful for anyone to:

- Hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal from any self propelled (motorized) or drawn vehicle. To be lawful, a hunter must have two feet on the ground and his/her body outside of the vehicle. Holders of the Permit To Hunt From A Vehicle (PTHFV) are the exception to this.
- Use a motorized vehicle or aircraft to concentrate, drive, rally, stir-up, corral, or harass game animals.
- Operate, on public lands, a motorized wheeled vehicle off legal routes (including game retrieval). All Federally approved travel plans on public lands in Montana have been adopted by the F&W Commission. Contact the appropriate land management agencies for travel plan information.
- Use a motor-driven vehicle on a road or trail on state land if that road or trail is posted as closed by the land management agency. This restriction

applies only to state land and not to federal land.

- Use a motor-driven vehicle other than on a road or trail designated for travel by a landowner unless permission has been given by that landowner.
- Use a powerboat, sailboat, or any boat under sail or any floating device towed by a powerboat, sailboat, or any boat under sail for the purpose of killing, capturing, taking, pursuing, concentrating, driving, or stirring up any game animal.

## Night Vision Equipment and Thermal Imaging Equipment

Enhanced penalties apply for use of night vision equipment to unlawfully take a game animal.

## **Public Roadways**

It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal: on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, barrow pit or right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel).

## **Recorded Animal Sounds**

It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls or sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals, wolves, and those birds not protected by State or Federal law.

## Two-way Communication

Two-way electronic communication (radios, cell phones, text messages, etc.) may not be used to:

- hunt game animals ("Hunt" means to "pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess or capture"), or
- avoid game checking stations or FWP enforcement personnel, or to facilitate unlawful activity.

The rule does not prohibit the possession or use of two-way communication for safety or other legitimate purposes.

## **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for the purposes of hunting is prohibited.

## **General Regulations**

## Antler/Horn/Skull Possession

Individuals may possess, transport, sell, or purchase naturally shed antlers, or the antlers with a skull or portion of a skull attached from a game animal that has died from natural causes and that has not been unlawfully killed. Carcasses and parts of elk, deer, antelope and moose killed in vehicular collisions may be taken and possessed but only with a Vehicle-Killed Wildlife Salvage Permit. No other game

animals may be salvaged by this permit. It is unlawful to possess a bighorn sheep head/horn picked up in the wild.

### **Check Stations**

All hunters are required by law to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting areas, even if they have no game to be checked.

## **Furbearer Traps**

- It is unlawful to disturb traps or trapped animals. Traps and trapped animals are the property of the trap owner.
- Hunters may not shoot trapped animals.

## **Glandular Scents**

- Natural or artificial glandular scents may be used by licensed hunters to attract game animals by spraying or pouring the scent on the ground or other objects.
- Hunters may not create a scent station where the scent continues to be dispensed without the hunter's direct action, such as an automatic device, which drips or otherwise continues to dispense scent.
- No scents other than glandular may be used for attracting game animals, but other scents may be used to mask human odor.

### **Hunter Harassment**

It is unlawful to:

- Intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of a wild animal.
- Disturb an individual engaged in the lawful taking of a wild animal with intent to prevent the taking of the animal.

### **Hunting Hours**

Authorized hunting hours for the taking of game animals begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See the official Sunrise-Sunset Tables listed on page 55.

## **Hunter Orange Requirement**

## Firearm Hunters

Any person hunting or accompanying a hunter as an outfitter or guide must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material above the waist, visible at all times (see exception below).

### Archery Hunters

A licensed bowhunter pursuing deer, elk and/or antelope during the Archery Only Season or in an archery only hunting district is not required to meet the hunter orange requirement, even if there is a concurrent firearm season in that hunting district or portion of district. However, bowhunters hunting during any portion of the general (firearm) season for deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black bear, and/or mountain lion must always wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) above the waist, visible at all times.

## Incidental Harvest Resulting in an **Unlawfully Taken Animal**

If you or a member of your hunting party shoots an animal that results in an unlawfully taken animal, you should notify an FWP game warden or 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) immediately and follow their instructions.

> Hunters should field dress the animal but **DO NOT** transport the animal until you've received instructions.

## Inspection of Wildlife

Wildlife taken must be shown to FWP Enforcement personnel for inspection when requested.

## **Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact** (IWVC)

Montana is a member of the IWVC. Under the compact, member states recognize suspensions of hunting, fishing or trapping privileges. It is unlawful for a violator whose privilege to hunt, fish or trap is suspended to obtain or attempt to obtain a license, tag or permit in a member state. For more information, call 406-444-2452.

## Kill Site Verification

As a condition of hunting in Montana, if requested to do so by an FWP warden, you are required to return to the kill site.

## Littering

A holder of a Montana resident or nonresident hunting license or camping permit convicted of littering campgrounds, public or private lands, streams, or lakes, while hunting, fishing, or camping shall forfeit any current Montana hunting, fishing, or trapping license and the privilege to hunt, fish, camp, or trap in Montana for a period of one year.

## Marked or Radio-Collared Animals

It is lawful to shoot game animals that have radio collars, neck bands, ear tags and/or other markers, but markers and radio collars must be returned to FWP. Please report the killing of a marked animal to the local FWP Office.

#### Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

Residents - OHVs (ATV, UTV, Dirtbike) must be registered and display a current Off-Highway decal to be used for off-road recreation on public lands (trails, frozen lakes, reservoirs). To be used on roads (County, Forest Service, etc.), an OHV must have a license plate and street-legal modifications. Register your OHV with the County Treasurer.

Nonresidents - OHVs from another state must purchase a nonresident permit to operate (anywhere) in Montana. Idaho and North Dakota residents are exempt. Permits are good for one calendar year, cost \$27 and can be purchased from local vendors (stateparks.mt.gov, OHV Program), at FWP offices or online at app.mt.gov/als. Contact Montana State Parks OHV Program at 406-444-3753 or smcarthur@mt.gov with questions.

## **Outfitters and Guides**

- A person may not act as an outfitter or guide or advertise or otherwise represent to the public that the person is an outfitter or guide without first securing a license.
- It is unlawful to engage in outfitting/ guiding while not licensed.
- It is unlawful to hire an outfitter or guide not licensed by the Department of Labor and Industry. For information, call 406-841-2300.

## Predators and Nongame Hunting

Predators and nongame species are unprotected by federal and/or state law or regulation and can be hunted in Montana year-round without a license by both resident and nonresident hunters. A Conservation License, or a State School Trust lands recreational use license is required to hunt predators and nongame species on State School Trust lands. Permission must be obtained to hunt predators and nongame species on private land.

- Predators are classified as coyote, weasel, (striped) skunk, and civet cat (spotted skunk).
- Nongame species are defined as any wild animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation in Montana. Examples include badger, raccoon, red fox, hares, rabbits, ground squirrels, marmots, tree squirrels, porcupines, and prairie dog.
- Furbearers are protected game species that may only be taken by residents with a valid Trapping License during prescribed open seasons. State classified furbearers include beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat, lynx, and swift fox.
- Feral Swine cause extensive damage to domestic and native habitats, wildlife, and livestock throughout much of the United States. To prevent the introduction of feral swine into Montana, the 2015 Legislature has prohibited the transportation, possession, and hunting of feral swine. If you see or know of any feral swine in Montana please contact the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-2976.

## Restitution for Unlawfully **Taken Wildlife**

Under Montana law, a person convicted, or who was charged and forfeited bond or bail, of unlawfully killing, taking, or possessing game animals shall reimburse the state. The law sets the amount of restitution for a trophy animal under Montana law as:

Bighorn Sheep	\$30,000
Elk	\$8,000
Antlered Deer	\$8,000
Moose	\$6,000
Mountain Goat	\$6,000
Antelope	\$2,000
Grizzly Bear*	\$8,000
*no authorized hunting season	

- The law specifically outlines minimum standards for a trophy under this regulation, but authorizes the F&W Commission to adopt more specific criteria.
- For the purpose of assessing restitution for unlawfully taken trophy wildlife under Montana law, the following are considered "trophy" animals:

Antelope: With at least one horn greater than 14 inches in length, as measured along the outside curve from base to tip.

**Elk:** Must meet all three criteria:

1) At least six points on one antler, 2) A main beam length on each antler of at least 43 inches, and 3) An inside spread of at least 36 inches.

Any elk with at least one six-point antler and having a gross/green Boone & Crockett score of 320 points or greater.

**Mule Deer**: Must meet all three criteria: 1) At least four points on one antler (excluding brow tine), 2) A main beam length on each side of at least 21 inches, and 3) A greatest inside spread across the main beams of at least 20 inches.

OR

Any mule deer with at least one fourpoint antler and having a gross/green Boone & Crockett score of 160 points or greater.

White-tailed Deer: Must meet all three criteria:

1) At least four points on one antler (excluding brow tine), 2) A main beam length on each side of at least 20 inches, and 3) A greatest inside spread across the main beams of at least 16 inches.

OR

Any white-tailed deer with at least one four-point antler and having a gross/green Boone & Crockett score of 140 points or greater.

 A "point" as defined in these regulations is at least four inches long for elk and at least one inch long for deer, measured from base to tip. Boone & Crockett (B&C)

measuring procedures or standards are used for criteria measurement. The official measurements for the purpose of this regulation are those that are taken at the time of confiscation or seizure of the trophy. Any B&C measurements will be considered final when taken by an official B&C scorer, regardless of drying time. If the skullcap of antlers or horns is broken in such a manner to render an official B&C score invalid, three official B&C scorers will setimate a score. The three scores will be averaged and the average score used to determine trophy status in accordance with Montana law.

## Simulated Wildlife

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm or other hunting implement at a simulated wildlife decoy in violation of any state statute, ARM or F&W Commission rule regulating the hunting of the wildlife being simulated.

## Transport of Wildlife

- An individual other than the license holder may transport lawfully taken, properly tagged game animals that comply with the "Evidence of Sex Requirements".
- It is unlawful to ship, possess, transport, or take out of state unlawfully killed game animals.
- It is a violation of the Federal Lacey Act to transport an unlawfully taken game animal across state boundaries.
- If you are transporting lawfully taken wildlife (including parts and/or products of live or dead animals) between the United States and any foreign country, you must complete a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declaration form. For further information contact the USFWS Wildlife inspector at 406-335-4350 or www.fws.gov.
- Questions concerning carcass transport may be directed to FWP Enforcement at 406-444-2452 or to your home state's wildlife division.

## **Hunter Land Access**

Hunters, it is your responsibility to know where you are, to know who owns the land, and to know what access restrictions apply.

### Fishing Access Sites

Many of Montana's Fishing Access Sites (FAS) offer hunting opportunities, however certain restrictions may apply such as no-hunting safety zones and/or restrictions on the type of hunting weapon or firearm that may be used. Refer to the Fishing Access Site website at <a href="https://myfwp.mt.gov/fishMT/index\_input.action">https://myfwp.mt.gov/fishMT/index\_input.action</a> for site specific information, opportunities and restrictions.

#### **Montana State Parks**

Some of Montana's State Parks provide hunting opportunities; however certain restrictions may apply such as no-hunting safety zones and/or restrictions on the type of hunting weapon or firearm that may be used. Contact the specific park and/or refer to the Montana State Park website at <a href="http://stateparks.mt.gov">http://stateparks.mt.gov</a> for site specific information regarding hunting opportunities and restrictions.

**Private Land Access** – Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land. See page 48 for information on FWP's Block Management Program.

- Even if the land is not posted, hunters must have permission from the land owner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not.
- Access to public land through private land requires permission of the private land owner, lessee, or their agent.
- Retrieval of all wildlife through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.

### **Public Land Access**

- Public lands closed to hunting include: National Parks and other areas administered by the National Park Service
  - National Wildlife Refuge lands except those areas designated open to public hunting.
- For hunting opportunities on federal lands such as U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management, inquire at the local Federal office.
- It is unlawful to post, place signs or mark state or federal land other than that done by a state or federal land agency.

## **Railroad Access**

Railroads and railroad right-of-ways are **private** property and may not be hunted without permission, nor should they be used as access to other lands (private or public) without explicit permission from the railroad.

## **State Game Preserves**

State Game Preserves may or may not be open to hunting. See Restricted Area Descriptions.

## **State School Trust Lands**

- A Conservation License provides hunters, anglers and trappers access to legally accessible State School Trust lands.
- Overnight (2 night) camping is allowed within 200 feet of a legal access point.
- Horses may not be kept on State School Trust Lands overnight.
- Game retrieval is by foot or horse only.
- No open fires are allowed except in designated campground fire pits.

- Firearms may not be discharged within one-quarter mile of an inhabited dwelling or outbuilding without permission of the inhabitant.
- Additional information is available from FWP or contact DNRC at 406-444-2074.

## State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

FWP's Wildlife Management Areas are generally open to hunting during the game animal hunting season. WMAs with big game winter range are closed to public entry, unless otherwise posted, from the day following the end of the general deer-elk season or December 1, whichever is later, to noon on May 15 each year, as posted.

<u>Exception</u>: There are several exceptions to these guidelines. For WMA specific information, please call the Regional office (see page 12 for contact numbers) or visit the FWP website at:

## http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/wma/

## Stream Access Law

The Stream Access Law does not allow for the hunting of game animals between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers without landowner permission.

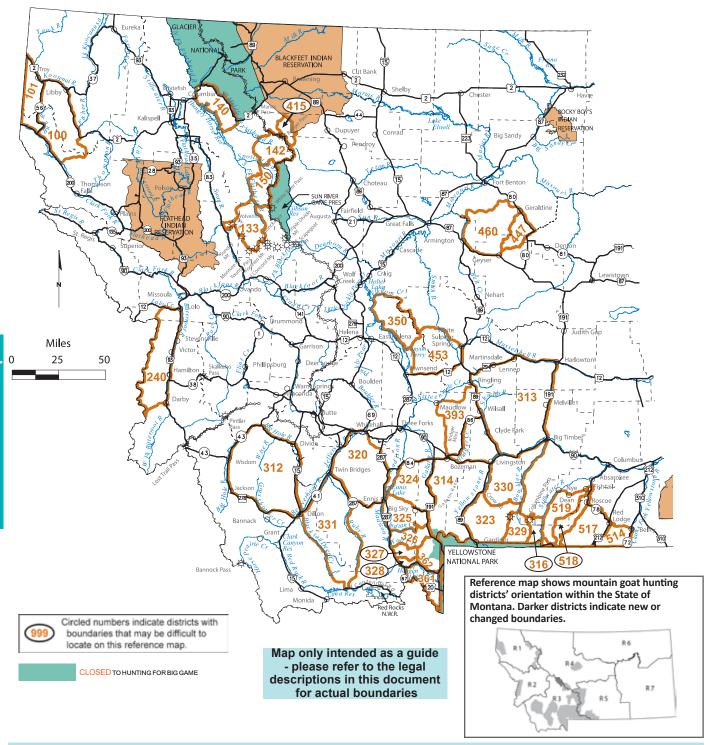
#### Tribal Land

Hunting game animals by non-Tribal members on Indian Reservations is prohibited by the State of Montana unless it is provided for in a cooperative agreement between the Tribal Government and the State of Montana. Check with local Tribal Government before attempting to hunt on an Indian Reservation. See "Contacts Outside FWP" on page 12 for contact information.

## Procedures to Follow After Harvesting an Animal

## **Evidence Required of Game Animal's Sex and Species**

- It is unlawful to possess or transport the carcass of any big game animal unless evidence of the animal's sex and species remains naturally attached to its carcass or a portion of the carcass.
- Evidence of an animal's sex and species must remain naturally attached until the carcass:
- Is at the final place of storage; or
- Is cut and wrapped in serving size; or
- Is at a commercial meat processing facility; or
- Is at a licensed taxidermist.
- If the head or antlers are removed, evidence of sex in the form of testicles, penis, scrotum, udder or vulva must remain naturally attached. For example, boned out or quartered animals need evidence of sex naturally attached to a portion of the meat.



## SuperTag Lottery for Mountain Goat



- Resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for antelope, bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and/or mountain lion.
- An individual may be successful in winning one or a combination of these SuperTags per year.
- Each SuperTag license allows one to hunt in any Montana hunting district valid for that species.
- The moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat 7-year waiting period does not apply to SuperTags.
- Chances are sold electronically at all FWP License Providers or via the Internet.
- Proceeds from the sale of SuperTag chances will enhance public hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts.
- For more information visit FWP's website at <a href="http://fwp.mt.gov">http://fwp.mt.gov</a>.

## Mountain Goat Specific Information

## **Licenses and General Information**

- An applicant who receives a mountain goat license is not eligible to apply for or receive another license for mountain goat for the following 7 years (see 7 Year Wait chart).
- License holders may legally take one mountain goat subject to all specifications on the license issued.

7 Year Wait				
Year License Drawn	Year May Reapply			
2011	2019			
2012	2020			
2013	2021			
2014	2022			
2015	2023			
2016	2024			
2017	2025			

## **Mountain Goat License Auction**

- Legislation authorizes the Fish &Wildlife Commission to provide for the auction of one mountain goat license each year. This license authorizes the hunter to take an either-sex mountain goat in any district of his/her choice. If this license holder is successful, the mountain goat will not be counted against the district quota. License holders may hunt only in areas open to mountain goat hunting.
- The auction is held annually during the winter by a conservation organization that is preselected by the F&W Commission.
- Money raised through the license auction is used for management of mountain goat.

# **Mountain Goat Mandatory Reporting Requirements**

A hunter harvesting a mountain goat must present the complete head with horns attached or the top portion of the skull with horns attached to a department official within 10 days of the date of kill. See page 12 for FWP office phone numbers.

## **Mountain Goat HD Regulations**

Residents are eligible to apply for any of the following licenses. Nonresidents are restricted to certain districts. Nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed 10 percent of a region's quota. Districts where nonresidents may apply are listed on the moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat nonresident application, but may change when final quotas are set in July.

NEW FOR 2018 - Regions 1, 2, and 4: In all hunting districts in Regions 1, 2 and 4 it is unlawful to take a female mountain goat accompanying a kid (an animal with horns less than 4 inches) or a female mountain goat in a group that contains one or more kids.

#### -- 100 Cabinet Mountains --

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 100-20: 2 licenses.

· Sep 15 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 101 West Cabinet Mountains --

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 101-20: 1 license.

· Sep 15 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 133 Swan-Clearwater --

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 133-20: 1 license.

• Sep 15 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 140 Great Northern --

Check Restricted Area Legal Description (p 18-20):BNSF right-of-way from Marias Pass to the Java Creek Bridge

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 140-20: 1 license.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 142 Upper Middle Fork --

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 142-20: 1 license.

• Sep 15 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 150 Continental Divide --

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 150-20: 1 license.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 240 West Bitterroot --

Check Restricted Area Legal Description (p 18-20):Lee Metcalf Refuge

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 240-20: 1 license.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

#### -- 312 Pioneer --

Check Restricted Area Legal Description (p 18-20):Poindexter Slough FAS south of Dillon

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 312-20: 8 licenses.

Sep 01 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 313 Crazy Mountains --

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 313-20: 15 licenses.

- Sep 01 Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat. 313-30: 5 licenses.
- Sep 01 Nov 25 Adult Female Mountain Goat.

#### -- 314 Gallatin Range --

Check Restricted Area Legal Description (p 18-20):Beattie Gulch: Subject to closure of all hunting with 24 hours notice; Gallatin Valley Weapons Restriction Area

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 314-20: 30 licenses.

· Sep 01 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

#### -- 316 Cooke City --

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 316-20: 12 licenses.

Sep 01 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

#### -- 320 Tobacco Root Mountains --

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 320-20: 3 licenses.

• Sep 01 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 323 South Absaroka --

Check Restricted Area Legal Description (p 18-20):Deckard Flats: Subject to closure of all hunting with 24 hours notice; Gardiner closed to hunting of all big game

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 323-20: 38 licenses.

· Sep 01 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 324 Spanish Peaks --

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 324-20: 6 licenses.

• Sep 01 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 325 Jack Creek-Indian Creek --

Check Restricted Area Legal Description (p 18-20):Ennis Airport Weapons Restriction Area

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 325-20: 4 licenses.

Sep 01 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 326 Indian Creek-Wolf Creek --Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1.

326-20: 2 licenses.

Sep 01 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## -- 327 Wolf Creek-Papoose Creek --Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 327-20: 4 licenses.

- Sep 01 Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.
- -- 328 Papoose Creek-Rock Creek -- Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 328-20: 2 licenses.
- Sep 01 Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.
- -- 329 Hellroaring-Slough Creek -- Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 329-20: 15 licenses.

Sep 01 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

#### -- 330 North Absaroka --

Goat License. Drawing only. Apply by May 1. 330-20: 1 license.

• Sep 01 - Nov 25 - Either-sex Mountain Goat.

## **Obtain A License Or Permit**

- Only one license or permit of any type may be purchased each year, unless otherwise specified and allowed in the regulations, such as a hunter may purchase more than one Deer B license.
- Many licenses or permits may be purchased from license providers or online licensing. Some licenses and permits are available only through a special drawing.
- Refer to the Licenses Available Chart for a complete list of resident and nonresident licenses and application or purchase deadlines.

## **Online Licensing**

- You may apply for special permits and/ or licenses and purchase many general hunting licenses from FWP Online Licensing between approximately 5:15 a.m. and 11:45 p.m., MST, 7 days a week within applicable sales dates.
- Go to app.mt.gov/als and follow the instructions.
- Online purchases must be made by using a debit card, MasterCard, Visa or American Express credit card.
- Montana residents must have purchased a Conservation License through the automated licensing system (ALS) in a previous license year and have an ALS number to buy licenses online.
- Don't wait until the last minute to buy your hunting license online as carcass tags are mailed to you within 10 days of your purchase.
- All online license purchases and applications are final, and cannot be changed or withdrawn.

## Residency

 It is unlawful to swear to or to affirm a false statement in order to obtain an original or duplicate resident hunting and/or fishing license OR to assist an unqualified applicant in obtaining a resident license.

## Resident

- To be a legal Montana resident and eligible to purchase any Montana resident fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses, as per MCA 87-2-102, you must:
- have been physically living in Montana for at least 180 consecutive days immediately prior to purchasing a resident license;
- register your vehicle(s) in Montana;
- be registered to vote in Montana if you're registered to vote at all;
- not possess (or have applied for) any current resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in another state or country;

- file Montana state income tax returns as a resident, if you are required to file.
- Once you have established your residency, you must continue to meet all these requirements and physically reside in Montana as your principal or primary place of abode for not less than 120 days per year (days need not be consecutive).
- A person is NOT considered a resident for the purposes of this section if the person:
  - claims residence in any other state or country for any purpose; or
- is an absentee property owner paying property tax on property in Montana.
- To purchase an annual resident Conservation License you will be required to show a valid Montana Driver's License (MDL), a valid Montana Identification Card (MIC) or a valid Tribal Identification Card.
- If your MDL or MIC was issued less than six months ago, you may be required to show additional proof of residency. An out-of-state driver's license is NOT an acceptable form of ID for resident license purchases. Contact your local FWP office for specifics.

#### Nonresident

- Montana's nonresident guests are eligible to purchase or apply for most Montana fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the special license and/or permit quota for a district. The Licenses Available Chart provides details.
- Nonresident unmarried minors, at least 12 but not older than 17 years of age, can hunt and fish in Montana as a resident if the minor's parents, legal guardian, or parent with joint custody, sole custody, or visitation rights is a legal resident of Montana.

#### **Armed Forces**

- A member of the regular armed forces of the United States, a member's spouse or dependent who resides in the member's household, or a member of the armed forces of a foreign government attached to the regular armed forces of the United States is considered a resident for Montana hunting, fishing and trapping licenses if:
  - the member was a resident of Montana under the provisions listed under residency and continues to meet these residency criteria; or,
- the member is currently stationed in and assigned to active duty in Montana, has resided in Montana for at least 30 days, and presents official assignment orders and a certificate verifying successful completion of an approved hunter safety course from any state or province.

## **Prerequisites**

## **Base Hunting License**

This is an annual fee and will be charged at the time the hunter purchases or applies for his/her first hunting license (including upland and migratory bird). This license includes the hunting access enhancement fee.

#### Conservation License

- Each license year, a new Conservation License is required to purchase any fishing, trapping or hunting license(s), or to apply for special licenses/permits. Most licenses can be purchased from any FWP License Provider beginning in February. The Montana license year begins on March 1 and runs through the last day of February.
- In compliance with the Federal Welfare Reform Laws, Montana law requires each resident and nonresident hunter, including youth, to provide the last four digits of his/her Social Security number when purchasing a Conservation License or obtaining a Conservation License through special drawings.

## **Hunter Education**

## **Hunter Education Requirements**

• If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season.

## Bow and Arrow License Requirements

 A Bow and Arrow License, plus the proper hunting license is required during the bighorn sheep Archery Only Season.

## **Bowhunter Education Requirements**

- To purchase a Montana Bow and Arrow License, a hunter must:
- Provide a certificate of completing the National Bowhunter Education Foundation course, or
- Provide any prior year's bowhunting/ archery stamp, tag, permit, or license from any state or province.
- <u>Duplicates</u> Montana certificates of completion for the Montana hunter education and/or bowhunter education courses may be obtained from FWP's website at <a href="http://fwp.mt.gov">http://fwp.mt.gov</a>.

## License Types

#### **Conservation License**

Prerequisite for all resident and nonresident licenses. It includes the state lands recreation license which is required for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes on State School Trust Lands.

#### **General License**

There are no general licenses available for moose, sheep or goat. Resident general licenses for other species may be purchased from any FWP License Provider or online at <a href="http://fwp.mt.gov">http://fwp.mt.gov</a>. They are available to all residents and may be used throughout the state according to the regulations. Nonresidents may apply for/purchase certain general licenses specified for nonresidents in the Licenses Available Chart. Please refer to the hunting district regulations to see how, when and where a general license may be used in each hunting district or portion of a hunting district.

## **Hunting License**

- A hunting license authorizes the holder to hunt the species identified on the license according to the regulations.
- Some licenses are valid only in a portion or portions of a hunting district. Carefully review the legal description of the district for which you are applying. A copy of the "portion of district" legal description is available: online at <a href="http://fwp.mt.gov">http://fwp.mt.gov</a>, click on "hunt planner"; OR by mail from the FWP Wildlife Division, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701, or email fwpwld@mt.gov.

## Replacement License

Areplacement for a lost, stolen or destroyed license may be purchased at FWP offices or FWP License Providers. A second duplicate license for the same species within a two-year period may only be purchased at an FWP office. A person may not replace a license requiring a carcass tag a third time for the same species within a two-year period unless they have recieved approval from a Warden at an FWP office. A fee of \$5 per license will be charged for each duplicate license.

#### It is unlawful to:

- Swear or affirm to a false statement in order to obtain a duplicate.
- Possess an original as well as a duplicate license(s). If the original is found, it must be returned to FWP at any regional or area resource office.
- Allow a license of any type to be used by another person.

## Special License

 A special license is generally available through the special drawing process.
 It allows you to hunt in an otherwise restricted area, time period or for a restricted species, usually for a specific sex and age class of animal.

## Unlimited Bighorn Sheep Over-the-Counter License

- Certain Bighorn Sheep Licenses with unlimited quotas are available for purchase over-the-counter from License Providers or via the special drawing.
- The license purchase deadline is May 1.
- If you purchase an unlimited over-thecounter license, you cannot apply for the same species through the special drawing process.

## SuperTag Lottery

Open to residents and nonresidents.

Species	Deadline to Purchase SuperTag Chances @ \$5 each
Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Bison, Deer, Elk, Moose, Mountain Goat and Mountain Lion	June 28

- Resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for antelope, bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and/or mountain lion.
- An individual may be successful in winning one or a combination of these SuperTags per year.
- Each SuperTag license allows the hunter to hunt in any Montana hunting district valid for that species.
- The moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat 7-year waiting period does not apply to SuperTags.
- Chances are sold electronically at all FWP License Providers or via the Internet.
- Proceeds from the sale of SuperTag chances will enhance public hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts.
- For more information visit FWP's website at <a href="http://fwp.mt.gov">http://fwp.mt.gov</a>.

# Availability of Licenses & Permits

You can purchase your fishing license, hunting licenses(s) and apply for special drawings online

https://app.mt.gov/Als/Index

## **Drawing Applications and Deadlines**

- Resident moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat (MSG) applications are available at FWP License Providers or may be downloaded from the FWP website at <a href="http://fwp.mt.gov">http://fwp.mt.gov</a>.
- Nonresidents may download a MSG application from the FWP website or

- may call 406-444-2950 to request a MSG application through the mail.
- FWP encourages hunters to apply for special permits/licenses online because safeguards will not accept incomplete applications. Also, your information is retained for future purchases or license applications.
- You may enter your application online, have it entered directly into the system at an FWP office, or you may mail in your application. If the MSG application is mailed, it must be postmarked on or before May 1. The postmark must be an official U.S. Postal Service mark. A postage meter postmark cannot be accepted. Online applications must be submitted by the close of business (5pm Mtn time) on May 1.
- Both resident and nonresident hunters are eligible to apply for most of the licenses awarded through the special drawings. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the special license and/or permit quota.
- Drawings are based upon the final quotas adopted by the F&W Commission, which may differ from the quotas listed in the hunting district regulations.
- For specific license/permit opportunities, please refer to the hunting district (HD) regulations where you will find a complete listing of all available hunting opportunities for each HD.

## **Bonus Points**

Bonus Points can increase your chances to draw a license or permit.

- Bonus points essentially offer you additional drawing chances and are used for first choice drawings only.
- Existing bonus points will be mathematically "squared" prior to the drawing. That means if you already have 3 "base" bonus points those will be "squared" and you'll then have 9 bonus points going into the drawing.
- If you wish to participate in the Bonus Point program (to use or gain points), make sure to check "YES" on the Bonus Point question and include the \$20 (nonresident) or \$2 (resident) Bonus Point fee for each license/permit type drawing applied for.
- If you're unsuccessful, you'll be awarded an additional base bonus point for next year's drawing.
- Bonus points are nontransferable; they cannot be transferred between the species drawings or individuals.
- The base bonus points for a party are the average of their individual base bonus points added together and rounded to the nearest whole number.
- If you did not apply for a bonus point you can purchase a bonus point from July 1st through September 30th. The fee to purchase a bonus point without applying

## Fees and Refunds

- In addition to the cost of each moose, bighorn sheep or mountain goat permit or license, there is a \$10 resident or \$50 nonresident nonrefundable application fee for each license or permit you apply for
- In some situations, FWP may refund resident or nonresident – in full or in part – fees for licenses and/or special drawings.
- The appropriate documentation (death certificate, medical statement, etc.) must accompany the unused license(s) and a signed request form certifying the license(s) has not been used. Nonresident license holders should call 406-444-2950 for information.
- Situations include:

Reason	Deadline	Refund			
Death of licensee	12/31/18	100%			
Death of family					
member	12/31/18	90%			
Medical emergency	/ 12/31/18	90%			
Call Special Licensing at 406-444-2950					

 For applications, detailed eligibility requirements, and information on licenses and permits for hunters with disabilities, contact any FWP office or check the FWP website at:

## http://fwp.mt.gov

Special Drawing Results				
Dates are approximate				
Species	Drawing Results			
Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat	Third week of June			
SuperTags for: Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat	After July 9			
Check for drawing results at				

## **Youth Hunter**

Age

11

## **Opportunities and Special Requirements**

## **Available To Resident & Nonresident**

An **Apprentice Hunter** is a resident or nonresident certified at an FWP office. This allows the apprentice to hunt some species, while accompanied by a mentor, without first completing a hunter education course. The apprentice hunter may not apply for a Bighorn Sheep License or a hunting license or permit with a limited quota or purchase a license for black bear, mountain lion or wolf. Other restrictions apply. See our website for details at:

http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses/all/apprenticeHunter/default.html

A youth 11 years of age who will reach 12 years of age by January 16, 2019, may:

- Purchase a hunting license, except spring turkey and spring black bear, and must be able to show proof of having completed an approved hunter education course at the time of purchase.
- Apply for any special drawing, except spring turkey, and must be able to show proof of having completed an approved hunter education course at the time of application.
- After August 15, 2018, hunt any game species for which their license is valid during an open season.

In order to carry or use a firearm in public, a youth under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a person having charge or custody of the child; OR be under the supervision of a qualified firearms safety instructor or an adult 18 years of age or older who has been authorized by the youth's parent or guardian, as per Montana law.

## **Available To Nonresident Only**

Nonresident Youth Big Game Combination Licenses will be sold for \$533.00, Elk Combination Licenses for \$455.00 and Deer Combination Licenses for \$325.00 to nonresident youth who have an adult immediate-family member sponsor (applicant's natural or adoptive parent, grandparent, brother or sister who is 18 years of age or older and possesses a current resident or nonresident general deer or elk license). The youth must be accompanied by the sponsor while hunting. Applications are available from FWP's website and may be processed at any FWP Office. For further details and an application, contact Licensing at 406-444-2950



Share your passion for hunting by becoming a Montana hunter or bowhunter education instructor. It's a great way to give back and be part of the community of volunteer instructors.

Contact your nearest FWP office for more information on how to become an instructor or contact program coordinator

Wayde Cooperider at 406-444-9947 or wacooperider@mt.gov



Be safe and enjoy your hunting season!

## **Hunters with a Disability**

## Resident With a Disability Conservation License

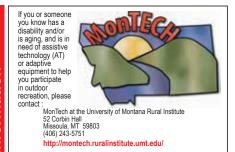
- Residents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as defined by FWP rules, who purchase a Conservation License, may purchase a Fishing License for half price. If they also purchase a Base Hunting License for \$10, they may then purchase General Deer, General Elk and/or Upland Game Bird (excluding turkey) Licenses for half price. Applications for a Resident With a Disability Conservation License are available at all FWP offices and FWP website.
- The certification is valid for the life of the holder or until changed by the Montana Legislature.

## Permit To Hunt From a Vehicle (PTHFV)

- Residents and nonresidents certified as permanently and substantially nonambulatory, as defined by State Law, may apply for a PTHFV.
- Specific PTHFV field regulations apply. A copy of these regulations will be provided at the time of certification. Noncompliance may result in loss of this privilege.

## Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE)

- Residents and nonresidents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as defined by FWP rules, may apply for a PTMAE. The PTMAE allows a person with a disability to use archery tackle that supports the bow, and draws, holds, and releases the string to accommodate the individual disability.
- Arrows are not exempt, and must meet requirements for the Archery Only Season.
- This permit does not entitle the holder to use a crossbow during the Archery Only Season.
- The permit only allows modification of legal archery tackle and must be used with a valid Bow and Arrow License and appropriate hunting license.



## **General Information**

## **Block Management**

The Block Management Program is a public hunting access program in which FWP enters into contractual agreements with private landowners (and sometimes public land management agencies) to allow free public access and how it will be managed on enrolled lands. Through the contractual agreement, a private landowner agrees to allow public hunting on enrolled lands under specified conditions, and FWP agrees to assist the landowner by enforcing the ranch rules adopted through the Block Management contract. FWP annually publishes a Hunting Access Guide by August 15th that lists the Block Management Areas (BMAs) enrolled for that year and explains how to gain access to them. For general information about the program, contact FWP at 406-444-2505.

## Donate Hunting License to Disabled Military Service Member or Veteran—

Residents and nonresidents can donate their Montana hunting license to a disabled military veteran or disabled active duty service member who is working with an organization that uses hunting as part of the rehabilitation process. The disabled person who receives the license will be a Purple Heart recipient and have a 70 percent or greater disability rating.

http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses/ donateLicense.html

## **Harvest Survey**

Montana FWP conducts an annual telephone survey to gather hunting and harvest information from Montana hunters. Wildlife managers use the results to help evaluate hunting seasons and set quotas, season dates and other regulations.

## **Hunters Against Hunger**

When you purchase a Montana hunting license you'll have an opportunity to make a donation of \$1 or more to Hunters Against Hunger. Contributions help pay for butchering and distribution of processed game donated to food banks.

MT-PLAN is a contribution account administered by DNRC that awards grants to eligible groups to acquire public lands access easements across private lands to inaccessible or hard-to-access public lands. For more information or to donate visit:

## http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/trust/mt-plan

## Tapeworm: Protect your Pets

Domestic dogs can pick up a parasite (Echinococcus granulosus) by eating carcasses or organs from infected deer, elk or moose. The domestic dog can then pass it to humans in its feces. If your dog does have access to carcasses, talk to your veterinarian about an appropriate deworming strategy.

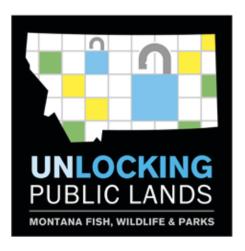
## **Weed Control and Weed-Free Hay**

Montana requires use of certified weedfree hay, grain, straw, mulch, cubes, and pelletized feed on state and federal lands. For further information, contact the Department of Agriculture at 406-444-3144.

## **Unlocking Public Lands**

The Unlocking Public Lands Program is designed to gain access to otherwise inaccessible parcels of state or federal land for all types of recreation. The program allows private landowners to enter into contractual agreements with Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP) to provide public recreational access where no legal public access currently exists. Landowners can receive an annual tax credit in the amount of \$750 per agreement (up to a maximum of \$3,000 tax credit per year) for allowing access. For more information visit:

fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/landowners



## Common Sense Precautions When Field-Dressing Big Game

- It is wise to review the proper ways to handle wild meat:
- Wear rubber (latex) gloves when field dressing game.
- Minimize contact with animal fluids and brain and spinal tissues.
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing or processing.
- Cook all meat until well done before consuming.





License & Permit Availability Chart				
2018 LICENSE TYPE	Resident COST	Nonresident COST	DEADLINE	NOTES
Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention pass (AISPP)	\$2.00	\$15.00		Required in addition to a fishing license to fish in Montana. Supports the aquatic invasive species prevention and inspection program. Learn more at CleanDrainDryMT.com.
Base Hunting License	\$10.00	\$15.00		Required prerequisite for hunting or applying for a permit or license.
Conservation	\$8.00	\$10.00		Required prerequisite.
Antelope – 900 Archery – Drawing	\$19.00	\$205.00	June 1*	Must be first and only choice.
- Disabled - Drawing	\$19.00	\$205.00	June 1*	Special disabled antelope application fee required. For information call (406) 444-2950.  Must have a current Conservation License and a Base Hunting License to
– Drawing	\$19.00	\$205.00	June 1*	apply.
Big Game Combination  – General Drawing		\$1041.00	March 15*	The Big Game Combination ncludes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing licenses.
Big Game Nonresident Youth (12-17) Sponsored  — Big Game Combination		\$533.00		The Youth Big Game Combination includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing licenses. For information call (406) 444-2950. The Youth Elk
– Elk Combination		\$455.00		Combination has everything but deer and the Youth Deer Combination has everything but elk.
- Deer Combination		\$325.00		
– Deer B (OTC)		\$37.50		Antlerless deer
– Elk B (OTC)		\$135.00		Antierless elk
Bighorn Sheep – Drawing	\$125.00	\$1,250.00	May 1*	There is a \$10 Resident/\$50 Nonresident nonrefundable application fee required with the application. The license cost is paid if successful in the drawing.
Bison – Drawing	\$125.00	\$1250.00	May 1*	There is a \$10 Resident/\$50 Nonresident nonrefundable application fee required with the application. The license cost is paid if successful in the drawing.
Black Bear	\$19.00	\$350.00	Spring - April 14 Fall - August 31	Can purchase after deadline dates, but then there is a 24-hour wait period to use license.
Bow and Arrow License	\$10.00	\$10.00		Required during the Archery Only Season for any species or to archery hunt in an Arch-Equip only area or hunting district.
College Student Combination  – Big Game Combination		\$533.00		Certification required for nonresident students attending a Montana college full-time. For information call (406) 444-2950. License available at any FWP
- Elk Combination		\$455.00		office after September 11.
– Deer Combination		\$325.00		College Student Big Game Combination includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing licenses. For information call (406) 444-2950. The College Student Elk Combination has everything but deer and the College Student Deer Combination has everything but elk.
– Deer B (OTC)		\$37.50		Antlerless deer
– Elk B (OTC)		\$135.00		Antlerless elk
Combat Disabled/Active Duty Veteran – Antelope	\$7.00	\$100.00		50 licenses - issued thru Helena Licensing only. For information call (406)
- Deer, General	\$8.00	\$125.00		444-2950.
– Deer B	\$5.00	\$37.50		
Coming Home to Hunt  – Big Game Combination		\$538.00		The Big Game Combination includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing Licenses. For
- Elk Combination		\$460.00	March 15*	information call (406) 444-2950. The Elk Combination has everything but the deer
- Deer Combination		\$330.00		license and the Deer Combination has everything but elk.
Deer – General (18-61 yrs)	\$16.00			
<ul><li>General (Disabled, Senior (62+)</li><li>&amp; Youth (12-17))</li></ul>	\$8.00			
Deer B – Drawing	\$15.00	\$80.00	June 1*	
Over-the-Counter and     Single-Region Antlerless  Page Combination	\$10.00	\$75.00		Over-the-counter. Valid in specific district(s). Purchase beginning August 6.
Deer Combination  – General Drawing		\$625.00	March 15*	Includes conservation, deer, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey), base
- Landowner Sponsored Drawing		\$625.00	March 15*	hunting, AISPP & season fishing licenses.
Deer Permit – Drawing	\$5.00	\$5.00	March 15*	Application fee only. Permit must be used with general deer license. Residents must have current year general deer license to apply. Nonresidents must also apply for a deer license when applying for a deer permit.
Elk - General (18-61 yrs)	\$20.00			
- General (Disabled, Senior (62+) & Youth (12-17))	\$10.00			

Key: \* = Must be postmarked on or before deadline date. \*\* = Must be received by 5 pm. MST on deadline date.

2018 LICENSE TYPE	Resident COST	Nonresident COST	DEADLINE	NOTES	
Elk B License  – Drawing	\$25.00	\$275.00	June 1*	Antlerless only.	
- Over-The-Counter	\$20.00	\$270.00		Over-the-counter. Antlerless only. Valid in specific district(s). Purchase beginning August 6.	
Elk Combination – Drawing		\$885.00	March 15*	Includes Conservation, elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing Licenses.	
Elk Permit – Drawing	\$9.00	\$9.00	March 15*	Residents must have current year General Elk License to apply. Nonresider must also apply for an Elk License when applying for an Elk Permit. A perm must be used with a General Elk License.	
Hound Training License	\$5.00				
Nonresident Montana Native				For Montana native born with current Montana resident relative; other	
- NR Big Game Combination License		\$533.00		qualifications apply. For information call 406-444-2950. The NR Big Game Combination includes Includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird	
– NR Elk Combination License		\$455.00		(excluding turkey), Base Hunting, AISPP & Season Fishing Licenses. The NR Elk	
– NR Deer Combination License		\$325.00		Combination has everything except Deer and the NR Deer Combo has everything except Elk.	
– Season Fishing License		\$43.00		Plus Conservation License and AISPP fee.	
– Bird License		\$55.00		Plus Conservation License and a Base Hunting License	
– Deer B (OTC)		\$37.50		Antlerless deer. Plus Conservation License and a Base Hunting License	
– Elk B (OTC)		\$135.00		Antlerless elk. Plus Conservation License and a Base Hunting License	
Migratory Bird – (12 - 15)	\$3.25	\$25.00		Federal Stamp is not required.	
<b>–</b> (16 - 17)	\$3.25	\$25.00		Federal Stamp also required.	
- (18+)	\$6.50	\$50.00		Federal Stamp also required.	
Moose – Drawing	\$125.00	\$1,250.00	May 1*	There is a \$10 resident/\$50 nonresident application fee required with the application. The license cost is paid if successful in the drawing.	
Mountain Goat	\$125.00	\$1,250.00	May 1*	There is a \$10 resident/\$50 nonresident application fee required with the application. The license cost is paid if successful in the drawing.	
Mountain Lion  - General License	\$19.00	\$320.00	August 31	Can purchase license after deadline date, but then there is a 5-day wait period to use the license.	
<ul><li>Special License</li><li>Limited Entry Drawing</li></ul>	\$19.00	\$320.00	August 9**	Application fee is only \$5.00. The license cost must be paid if successful in the drawing.	
Off-Highway Temporary Use Decal		\$27.00			
Sandhill Crane - Drawing	\$5.00	\$5.00	July 26**	Cost is the application fee only.	
Sportsman – Military Recognition	\$12.00			Must go through certification process only at FWP offices. Includes Conservation, Season Fishing, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey), Deer & Elk Licenses. Base Hunting License and AISPP fee are also required.	
– with Bear	\$85.00			Includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, Bear, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding turkey) & Season Fishing Licenses. Base Hunting License and AISPP fee are also required.	
– without Bear	\$70.00			Includes Conservation, Deer, Elk, State Lands, Upland Bird (excluding	
– without Bear – Senior (62+) & Youth (12- 17)	\$35.00			turkey) & Season Fishing Licenses. Base Hunting License and AISPP fee are also required.	
State Lands Recreational License – General (18-59)	\$10.00	\$10.00		Required for recreational use on state school trust lands. The State Lands Recreation License is included in the Montana Conservation License	
– Youth (12-17)	\$5.00	\$5.00		specifically for the purpose of hunting, fishing, and/or trapping (HFT). All	
- Senior (60+)	\$5.00	\$5.00		other recreational use on state school trust lands requires this State Lands Recreation License.	
– Family	\$20.00	\$20.00		TOO GUILOT EIGOTIGG.	
Swan Drawing Deadline	\$5.00	\$5.00	August 30**	Cost is application fee only.	
Turkey License  – Over the Counter	\$6.50	\$115.00		If nonresident has already purchased an Upland Bird License, then turkey licenses are \$57.50 each.	
– Drawing	\$5.00	\$5.00	Spring - March 1**	There is a \$5 resident or nonresident application fee required with the application. The license cost is paid if successful in the drawing.	
Upland Bird  — General (18-61)	\$7.50	\$110.00			
– Youth (12-17)	\$3.75	\$55.00		Plus Conservation License and a Base Hunting License	
- Senior (62+) or disabled	\$3.75	\$110.00			
– 3 Day		\$50.00		Valid for three calendar days (which are indicted on the license). Not valid for sage grouse at any time or for ring-necked pheasants during the opening week of the season. Plus Conservation License and a Base Hunting License	
- 3 Day Preserve		\$20.00		Valid only on state-licensed shooting preserves. Plus Conservation License and a Base Hunting License	
Wolf	\$19.00	\$50.00	August 31	Can purchase after the deadline, but then there is a 24-hour wait period to use the license. Limit 5 licenses per hunter.	

Key: \* = Must be postmarked on or before deadline date. \*\* = Must be received by 5 pm. MST on deadline date.